

I-5 – South 317th Street HOV Direct Access Project Update

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Construction Update

Walls! That's one of the major construction items on the project right now – walls are going up to support the new direct access ramps and bridge. The retaining walls north and south of the first bridge support are pretty much done. We've started building two more walls behind the first bridge support (at the bridge approach area, coming from the transit center site). And we're working on retaining walls north and south of the second (median) bridge support, which will form the sides of the direct access ramps on the freeway.

Sound Transit's new Federal Way Transit Center is also coming along. The contractor, PCL Construction, has completed the floor and walls of the first level, and two of five concrete pours for the second level. They're doing some mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work as they progress with the concrete pours. They're also excavating for a large on-site water detention vault.

While we're building the adjacent walls, we're still working on the median bridge support at S. 317th. We're also still grading and excavating the southbound I-5 lanes so we can place the new pavement. We may place the first layer of new pavement as early as next week, if weather permits. Crews continue drainage and electrical work as well.

We've posted new construction photos at
http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/photos/jan05.htm.

Nighttime I-5 Lane Closures

Tonight through Thursday night (Jan. 11-13), drivers should expect nighttime closures of two southbound and two northbound lanes on I-5 near S. 320th Street from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. These closures are necessary for crews to do excavation and shoring and install drainage structures.

Lane Changes Prohibited

Remember that it is illegal to change lanes on southbound I-5 between Military Road and S. 320th Street, as indicated by the solid white lines between lanes. This is especially important in the area where the lanes split around the median bridge support at S. 320th. Staying in your lane will help everyone get safely through the work zone.

Winter Construction

Winter weather can slow down construction, but we're still working through the dark, cold months of the year. Our contractor did stop working for a time last Thursday because of slippery road conditions. We want drivers and our crews to be safe, and the professionals on the job site determined it would be best to stop work until conditions improved.

Even if the weather temporarily stops work, we're in a good position with regard to schedule. The project is on schedule and we plan to finish this fall.

Winter Work Zone Driving Tips

Driving through the work zone can be further complicated by winter conditions, so please take an even greater amount of caution over the next couple of months as you drive south on I-5 through Federal Way.

- Adjust your speed according to conditions
- Allow plenty of following distance
- Use your headlights
- Minimize distractions
- Don't change lanes

For general winter driving tips, please visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter/>.

Sign Up!

Did you receive this e-mail update by someone forwarding it to you? If so, we'd love to have you join our update list. Just send a quick e-mail to JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov with "subscribe" in the subject line, and we'll add your e-mail address to the list for the I-5 – S. 317th Street HOV Direct Access Project update. You'll receive a subscription confirmation, and then you'll receive this project update directly each Tuesday.

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Make sure you catch our latest weekly radio message on **AM 1520** in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail Laura Johnson at JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov.
